

[said acetabular shell also having at least one interlock circumferential groove and a plurality of peripheral notches formed therein;]

a liner configured to seat within said acetabular shell, said liner including at least one circumferential peripheral annular seal, said at least one peripheral seal engaging said smooth inner sealing surface of said [acetabular] shell in a sealing engagement to restrict migration of debris toward said at least one screw hole[;].

[said liner also including a separate raised locking ridge positioned to engage said interlock groove of said acetabular shell in a snap-lock arrangement; and]

[a plurality of generally rounded peripheral tabs on the peripheral edge of said liner, said tabs disposed to engage said plurality of notches on said acetabular shell so as to prevent rotational movement of said liner within said acetabular shell.]

2. (Amended) The prosthesis [acetabular component] of claim 1 wherein said shell [acetabular component] is load bearing, said liner being formed to substantially conform to and contact said shell under load bearing conditions, said at least one peripheral seal being positioned to maintain its sealing engagement between said liner and smooth inner sealing surface of said shell under load bearing conditions.

3. (Amended) The prosthesis [acetabular component] of claim 2 wherein said at least one seal includes at least one ridge of resilient material so that load bearing contact between said liner and said shell maintains said ridge a sealing engagement therebetween.

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4. (Amended) The prosthesis [acetabular component] of claim 3 wherein each of said at least one ridge is an annulus integrally formed on said liner, and said smooth inner sealing surface is sized and spaced to receive and seat all of said at least one ridges, said seal thereby restricting migration of debris.

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5. (Amended) The prosthesis [acetabular component] of claim 4 wherein said at least one seal extends annularly around the liner to thereby restrict debris from passing to the screw holes.

✓ Please delete claim 6 in its entirety.

Please add the following new claims 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12:

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7. The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said shell also has at least one interlocking circumferential groove.

8. The prosthesis of claim 7 wherein said liner also includes a separate raised locking ridge positioned to engage said interlocking groove of said shell in a snap-lock arrangement.

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9. The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said shell also has a plurality of peripheral notches formed therein.

10. The prosthesis of claim 9 wherein each notch includes a pair of inwardly projecting lips to grasp said tabs as they engage.

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11. The prosthesis of claim 9 or 10 wherein said liner includes a plurality of generally rounded peripheral tabs on the peripheral edge of said liner, said tabs disposed to engage said plurality of notches on said shell so as to prevent rotational movement of said liner within said acetabular shell.

12. A component for an orthopedic joint replacement system, said component comprising a metal shell adapted to be affixed to a bony structure within the human body by means of bone screws or the like, said shell replacing at least a part of a joint, said shell having one or more holes therein for reception of said bone screws, said shell having an inner surface, a liner of a suitable synthetic resin material adapted to fit closely within said inner surface of said shell, said liner constituting a bearing surface for another component of said joint replacement system, said liner having at least one seal extending outwardly from said liner for sealing engagement with said inner surface of said shell around the entire liner so as to prevent the migration of joint fluid and debris from said joint to said screw holes.

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